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Commissioner,
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to you to urge action on Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1, and stop the slaughter of downed animals for the human food supply.

Existing USDA regulations define downed animals – those unable to stand – as “diseased”, and the law prohibits the slaughter of “diseased” animals for human food. Therefore, the current practice of slaughtering downed animals for human food must stop.

I am very concerned that diseases like bovine leukemia virus (BLV), bovine immunodeficiency virus (BIV), and other commonly afflict U.S. cattle. There is also evidence that cattle, pigs and sheep in the U.S. may be afflicted with diseases like Britain's “mad Cow Disease” (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE).

I am aware that last summer your agency banned certain animal by-products from being used in livestock feed because of a concern about potential threat of BSE in the United States. This action is a positive first step, but the further measures are necessary to reduce the threat of BSE in the United States.

Please do all possible to see that the above-named docket is acted upon and made a part of the FDA regulations for the United States food supply.

Sincerely,



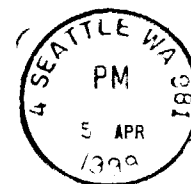
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98P-0151

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